Course Syllabus
FIR 4610/6610 – Cases in Financial Management
Fall 2020
3.0 Credit Hours

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COVID-19 Notice
Please visit the Fogelman College of Business and Economics COVID-19 Notice page in order to verify that you understand and will adhere to the College's policies on student accommodation, health and safety on campus, classroom conduct, and reporting procedures.

https://www.memphis.edu/fcbe/faculty/covid_19_notice.php

Course Overview:
This course provides an overview of the broad range of financial planning practice areas including corporate managerial finance and asset management applications. The case approach provides opportunities for the application of tools and principles introduced in previous courses to develop up-to-date problem solving techniques from standpoint of top level management and utilize both quantitative and qualitative analysis. The corporate cases incorporate major finance topics regarding business investment and production decisions. You will employ your prior knowledge of capital structure, payout policy, agency problems, mergers & acquisitions, etc. to analyze real-world business decisions.

Some cases relate to personal financial asset management. Students will learn how to analyze a client’s financial position and opportunities with respect to risk management, asset allocation, risk tolerance, tax planning and estate planning, etc. With the body of knowledge covered in this course, students are expected to understand and possibly convey the message of how much big of an impact financial planning might have on the lives of individuals. In this course we will cover most of the principal knowledge topics list suggested by the Certified Financial Planner Board of Standards Inc. (CFP Board) and will help students prepare for the CFP exam. This part of the course is ideal for students who are interested in the growing field of financial planning and asset...
management. Upon completion of this course students should be able to manage their own financial affairs better and make wise financial decisions.

**Course Learning Objectives:**

Upon completion of this course, the student will be able to:

1. Analyze a firm or client’s financial statements and calculate ratios to make quality business decisions.
2. Recognize the importance of following corporate governance procedures and incorporating value creation into the firm’s activities.
3. Estimate and use a company’s cost of capital to make investment decisions.
4. The importance of effective working capital management in a firm’s operations.
5. Recognize the relevant cash flows and know how to use appropriate capital budgeting techniques to determine if capital projects are profitable or not.
6. Collect all necessary and relevant qualitative and quantitative information required to develop a financial plan or make investment decisions.
7. Analyze personal financial situations, evaluating clients’ objectives, needs, and values to develop an appropriate strategy within the financial plan.
8. Demonstrate logic and reasoning to identify the strengths and weaknesses of various approaches to a specific problem.
9. Evaluate the impact of economic, political, and regulatory issues with regard to the financial plan.
10. Apply the CFP Board Financial Planning Practice Standards to the financial planning process.

**Pre-Requisites/Co-Requisites:** FIR 3710

**Required Texts (and Related Materials):**


Students should obtain a financial calculator.

**Location of Course Materials:**

All course materials (lectures, discussion topics, news, etc.) are located on the eLearn website.

**Fogelman College: Learning outcomes for your degree:**

This course is designed to help you meet the overall learning objectives for the BBA degree offered by the Fogelman College. You should take the time to become familiar with the overall learning
objectives as a student in the MBA Program.

**Professor’s Expectations of Students:**
In general, you should assist the instructor in creating a positive, supportive environment for learning by staying engaged in the course and actively participating.

**Student's Expectations of the Professor:**
In my role as your instructor, there are certain things you can expect from me including: well-organized and engaging learning experience, response to emails within two (2) business days, and feedback on all work submitted within 7-10 calendar days.

**Grading:**
This section of the syllabus describes the assessed work you will be doing and how final (overall) letter grades will be computed.

### Final Course Grades:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Point Range</th>
<th>Assigned Grade</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>90 and/or above</td>
<td>A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>80-89</td>
<td>B</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>70-79</td>
<td>C</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>60-69</td>
<td>D</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Below 60</td>
<td>F</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Your overall grade for the semester is based on how well you perform on a mixture of formal activities including discussions, quizzes and projects. A detailed description of each of the assessed activities can be found at the scoring summary table below.

Points earned on the assessed activities will be distributed as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Deliverable</th>
<th>Points</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mini-cases &amp; Assignments (6)</td>
<td>45 (6 @ 7.5pts each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Comprehensive Cases &amp; Projects (4)</td>
<td>40 (4 @ 10pts each)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation through Discussions</td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td><strong>100</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Course Topics:**
The learning units of the course will generally follow the organization outlined as follows:

- Financial Planning
- Insurance Planning
- Investment Planning
- Income Tax Planning
- Retirement Planning
- Estate Planning
- Corporate Finance
List of Formal Assessed Activities:

- Participation
- Mini-cases
- Comprehensive cases (would be waived for those participating in challenge competition cases)

Graduate Student Requirements:

Graduate students will (1) present/debate a comprehensive case, (2) present CARES Act summary or another current regulatory topic (3) present helpful study material for 1 CFP exam topic.

Fall Semester Schedule

- First Day of Classes: **August 17, 2020 / Monday**
- Labor Day: **September 7, 2020 / Monday**
- Last Day of Classes: **November 17, 2020 / Tuesday**
- Exams: **November 18-24, 2020 / Wednesday - Tuesday**
- Thanksgiving Holidays: **November 25-29, 2020 / Wednesday - Sunday**

Final Exam Schedule:

No final exam. Comprehensive cases will replace traditional final exam.

E-MAIL:

All students are required to maintain and access their University of Memphis (@memphis.edu) email account. You will receive all official course correspondence at this email account. Any inability to receive incoming mail in a timely fashion (e.g., not regularly checking your email, having a “full mailbox” condition, etc.) is the student’s responsibility.

Adding/Dropping:

If you have questions about adding or dropping classes, please refer to the Registrar’s website.

Academic Honesty:

The University of Memphis has clear codes regarding cheating and classroom misconduct. If interested, you may refer to the Student Handbook section on academic misconduct for a discussion of these codes. Note that using a “Solutions Manual” is considered cheating. Should your professor have evidence that using a “Solutions Manual” has occurred, he/she may take steps as described on the campus’ Office of Student Conduct website (opens in new window). If you have any questions about academic integrity or plagiarism, you are strongly encouraged to review the Fogelman College's Website on Academic Integrity (opens in new window).

Participation:

To be successful in the course as a student, you must stay active and involved throughout the entire semester. Students are expected to participate in all interactive aspects of the course. You should also regularly communicate with the instructor as part of your overall learning experience, check
into the course frequently for announcements (usually in the course home page), and actively participate in classroom discussions (both formal and informal). Note that your overall level of participation will contribute to your final grade in the semester as noted under ‘Grading’ in this syllabus.

**Online Behavior:**

All participants in the course should be considerate of the other course participants and treat them (as well as their opinions) with respect. The class will operate under the assumption that any and all feedback offered is positive in nature and that the intentions of the person(s) providing feedback are strictly honorable. Insensitivity in this area will not be tolerated.

**Make-Up & Late Work:**

There will not be make-up assignments. Special accommodations may be possible if you contact your instructor before the respective due date, however this is not a guarantee. Late assignments will not be accepted. If an emergency should arise, it is the student’s responsibility to contact the instructor prior to the deadline to discuss the matter. A deadline extension will be considered only if all of the following conditions are met:

1. Extreme emergency and
2. Instructor contacted prior to the due date.

**Last minute, extra credit essays at the end of the Semester**

There will be no last minute extra-credit opportunities. Please do not ask. Do the work as it is assigned and stay ahead of deadlines. Time management is as valuable of a skill to learn as financial management.

**Inclement Weather:**

Since it is an online course inclement weather are not supposed to hamper our normal progress throughout the course. However, if Covid-19 worsens and require some drastic actions from city, state and federal government then you will be made aware of such notifications well in advance.

**Syllabus Changes:**

The instructor reserves the right to make changes as necessary to this syllabus. If changes are necessitated during the term of the course, the instructor will immediately notify students of such changes both by individual email communication and posting both notification and nature of change(s) on the course bulletin board.

**Student Services**

Please access the [FCBE Student Services (opens in new window)](https://www.fogeinstein.edu/student-services) page for information about:

- Students with Disabilities
- Tutoring and other Academic Assistance
- Advising Services for Fogelman Students
- Technical Assistance